

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-07

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R 250815Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3470

INF V RUQMHR/AMEMBASSY TEHRAN 697

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

S E C R E T ABU DHABI 2142

LIMDIS

EE.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS : PFOR, TC, IR, QA

SUBJECT : SHAIKH RASHID'S MEDIATION ATTEMPTS--QATAR AND IRAN

1. DURING CALL ON VICE PRESIDENT SHAIKH RASHID OCT. 22, I FOUND HIM QUITE PLEASED WITH TWO MEDIATION EFFORTS HE HAD PERSONALLY LAUNCHED RECENTLY. HE MENTIONED, FIRST, THAT HE BELIEVES HE HAS PATCHED THINGS UP BETWEEN SHAIKH KHALIFA OF QATAR AND FORMER RULER SHAIKH AHMAD (LASWTER IS LIVING IN DUBAI AND IS MARRIED TO RASHID'S DAUGHTER).

HE SAID HE HAD MET WITH SHAIKH KHALIFA IN LONDON THIS UMMER, AND MEETING HAD GONE WELL. HE THOUGHT KHALIFA WAS "VERY TIRED" BUT OBVIOUSLY IN CONTROL. I ASKED RASHID IF SHAIKH AHMAD HARBORED ANY LINGERING AMBITION TO RESTORE HIMSELF AS RULER. RASHID SAID AHAMAD HAD BEHAVED HIMSELF BUT THAT SOME OF HIS SONS HAD BEEN TROUBLEMAKERS.

2. SECOND MEDIATION EFFORT, AND ONE SHAIKH RASHID ENJOINED ME TO KEEP IN CONFIDENCE, SEEMS POTENTIALLY OF MORE IMPORTANCE. DURING RECENT TRIP TO IRAN HE HAD OFFERED TO ACT AS GO-BETWEEN TO RESOLVE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN IRAN AND SHAIKH SAQR OF RAS AL-KHAIMAH.

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(THESE REMAIN ACUTE, AT LEAST IN SAQR'S MIND, BECAUSE OF IRAN'S FOR-

CIBLE TAKEOVER OF TUMB/ISLANDS, AND HE HAS THUS FAR REFUSED TO RECEIV
E
IRANIAN AMBASSADOR IN HIS EMIRATE.) RASHID SAID HE RAISED SUBJECT
NOT WITH SHAH BUT PRIME MINISTER, WHO HAD RESPONDED POSITIVELY.
RASHID CLAIMS HE DID THIS WITHOUT FIRST CHECKING WITH SAQR, BUT HAVING

RECEIVED POSITIVE RESPONSE IN TEHRAN, HE HAD INFORMED SARQ, WHO,
ACCORDING TO RASHID, WAS WILLING TO HAVE RASHID MAKE FURTHER EXPLORA-
TIONS ON HIS BEHALF. HE THOUGH NEXT STEP WOULD BE FOR IRANIAN REPS
TO COME TO DUBAI, BUT COMMENTED HE WOULD NOT HESITATE HIMSELF TO
FLY TO TEHRAN IF THIS SHOULD PROVE USEFUL. I ASKED RASHID WHAT HE
THOUGHT ELEMENTS OF SETTLEMENT MIGHT BE. RASHID'S REPLY INDICATED
HE THOUGHT TQOBS WOULD HAVE TO REMAIN WITH IRAN, BUT WITHIN THAT
CONTEXT HE THOUGHT GOI MIGHT EXTEND GENEROUS ASSISTANCE TO SAQR.

3. COMMENT: RASHID AND SAQR ARE NOT PARTICULARLY CLOSE FRIENDS,
BUT DISSATISFACTION THEY BOTH FEEL OVER ABU DHABI'S CONNECTIONS
WITH ARAB RADICALS MAY BE DRAWING THEM TOGETHER INTO COMMON
COURSE OF ACTION. BOTH ARE ANXIOUS TO CREATE COUNTERWEIGHTS TO
PRESSUES THEY FEEL TO DRAW CLOSER INTO SHAIKH ZAYID'S FEDERAL
UNITY SCHEMES. BOTH BELIEVE THEY LOST GROUND IN THIS RESPECT
WITH ABU DHABI/SAUDI BORDER SETTLEMENT, WHICH MAKES IT
MORE DIFFICULT FOR SAUDIS TO CONTINUE INDEPENDENT RELATIONS WITH
INDIVIDUAL EMIRATES. IRANIAN AMBASSADOR TOLD ME SOME TIME BACK
THAT HE HAS RECEIVED FEELERS ABOUT A POSSIBLE RAPPROCHEMENT FROM
PEOPLE PURPORTING TO REPRESENT SAQR, BUT HE HAS NOT BEEN ABLE TO
ESTABLISH THEIR BONA FIDES. ALSO POSSIBLY ON SARQ'S MIND IS FACT
THAT HE IS NOW DRILLING FOR OIL IN A STRUCTURE THAT LIES, WE UNDER-
STAND, CLOSE TO PUTATIVE MEDIAN LINE THAT MIGHT BE RATIFIED IF SAQR
COULD COME TO TERMS WITH IRAN. WITHOUT SUCH SETTLEMENT, SAQR MAY
FIGURE HE COULD HAVE TROUBLE FROM IRANIANS IF OIL IS FOUND AND STRUCT

-
URE PROVES TO BE GOOD ONE. FROM ALL THIS WE SUSPECT SHAIKH SAQR IS
HIMSELF MORE THE INITIATOR OF THIS MOVE THAN SHAIKH RASHID LETS ON,
BUT THAT SAQR IS ANXIOUS TO CAMOUFLAGE THIS FOR BARGAINING PURPOSES.

4. SINCE IRANIAN-RAS AL-KHAIMAH RAPPROCHEMENT WOULD BE ALL TO THE
GOOD FOR OUR POINT OF VIEW, AND WE WOULD LIKE TO SEE THESE INCIPIENT
NEGOTIATIONS GET SOMEWHERE, ADDRESSEES ARE REQUESTED TO TAKE PART-
ICULAR CARE TO REPECT RASHID'S ENJOINDER OF SECRECY.

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